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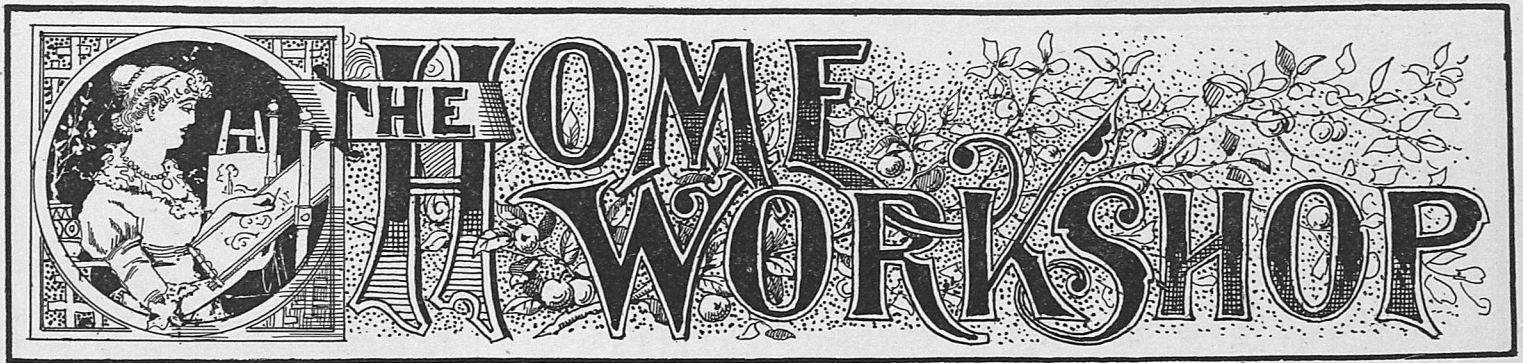
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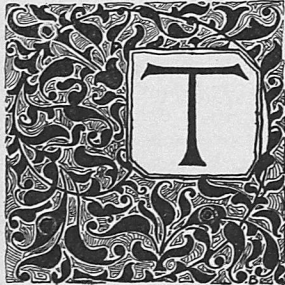
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DECORATIVE NOVELTIES.

BY MARY GAY HUMPHREY.



THE results of the summer work with needle and brush are coming in. July is the month for hatching new ideas; August the month for putting them into practical shape. In September when the increasing tide of travel turns homeward the town teem with new pretty and useful novelties, which are the harvest of the summers busy brain and fingers.

Any one who has observed the tendency of decorative work must have

observed that since those early days when decoration existed for its own sake, when everything was turned from its own purpose to serve the purposes of show, when we painted snow scenes in butter bowls and hung them up as pictures, when we covered coal shovels with daisies and strung them up on ribbons—that since those days the course of decoration has been much more healthy and sane.

Now the desire is to made attractive the familiar and necessary objects with which we are surrounded. Instead of one loading one rooms with purposeless objects, articles of daily use are made so as to beguile the eye. This is as it should be; and it may be as well to add that it was in this way the Greeks worked, vases now treasured in museums were jars to hold wine and oil, and by thus familiarizing themselves with beautiful forms they became the artistic nation that we know them to have been.

This is something of a disquisition to have been founded on a shoe box, for a shoe box has been in my mind all the time, and I started out merely to described it as a useful article, and a most cheerful pretty object to adorn ones room. The box is about two feet and a half long and two feet high and is mounted on castors. The box any carpenter can manage. It is lined through with substantial cotton reps a glowing toned yellow. The shoe pockets are of a warm material bound with braid of the same or slightly darker tint, and are fastened on all around the inside with brass headed nails. This will give pockets for at least ten pairs of feet covering, easily accessible and in plain view.

The box has a lid; this is lightly stuffed and is covered with a gorgeous design in yellow and white cotton upholstery covering. The stuff is put on plain and a flounce of deep cotton lace, that imitating oriental lace through which runs a cord is preferable. This lace overlays the stuff beneath, leaving an oblong panel on top, and is fastened down with heavy, yellow silk cord. The box proper is covered with the upholstery material. First in a bias puff a finger and a half deep fastened down with the silk cord. Below this falls a deep flounce of the lace over the yellow, on a flounce of the material may be substituted if more convenient. Of course any other colors, or materials, may be substituted. In any case the box should harmonize with the dominating colors of the room in which it is placed.

The watering place season has produced a most useful article, and one which will be found as convenient at home where economy of space is of consideration. This is the writing slab which serves the purpose of a writing desk and is in addition a pretty and attractive possession. The size is governed by the shape and dimensions of one's trunk, for it is intended to be portable. Of the required size then get a smooth board, cover this neatly with baize, green, crimson, deep or light blue, as taste may dictate, and allowing the stuff to fall over each

end at least a quarter of a yard. These ends should be pinked and pockets stiched on them to hold envelopes and paper. This must be done before the board is covered. Fasten the baize down with thumb tacks. In the centre place a square of several sheets of blotting paper to make a writing pad, and fasten it down with thumb tacks. Above this, nail straps for pen holder, pencil and ink eraser, on the right side of these, screw down the ink well, and on the left fasten a pinked out rosette of baize for a pen wiper. On the right hand corner of the board strap down a calendar and on the left nail down with thumb tacks a pocket for postal cards on which has been stitched two receptacles for postage stamps. Below this on the left hand side make another pocket for telegram blanks. These all combine in a most useful and attractive article, and one which it seems would made a desirable Christmas present, and a valuable article at bazaars. When in use it is laid across a table, the ends hanging down. These are folded on to the slab in packing.

The toilet furnishes opportunities for a number of those dainty trifles with which women love to surround themselves. Everything now has a covering outside of its original cuticle, and this covering is the medium for embroidery or some sort of decoration. The favorite designs consist of tiny sprigs and blossoms scattered over the surface. Borders and continuous patterns are only used where the edges need to be strongly defined. The more dainty and baby-like is this sprigging the more fashionable it is. For example a set of boxes for the bureau or dressing table are covered with white diamond marked piqué. The material has been first embroidered with little sprays of violets. The edges are furnished with a blue silk cord. It is not necessary that the same flower should be used in a set of boxes,—a set consisting of glove, handkerchief and collar boxes—but that they be in keeping, a buttercup, moss rose, or forget-me-not, might be used on the other boxes. It may be well to add that pin trays, and little catch-alls of china are brought out with the same sort of decoration and serve their purposes in the same company. Needle books and articles for the work basket are likewise ornamented.

The photograph, like the poor, is always with us, and the various sorts of frames and receptacles that are provided for its preservation are numerous enough to equip a church fair. In their decoration embroidery has the first place. The simplest form consists of outlining with gold thread. This on Japanese crinkly materials is particularly effective. Sprigging on china silk in the manner described above, or on linen, or piqué, is at the moment the favorite mode. In such a frame one would not put the photograph of a dowager, or of a bearded baritone, but it makes a particularly appropriate surrounding for youth and beauty, especially when combined. Cut work on linen is admirable for photograph frames. The design it will be understood is button-holed and the ground afterward cut out, when the embroidery is placed over color to give relief.

Large folding photograph frames are not so much in use. The place is taken by smaller frames, the photographs being grouped according to what new method is preferred. The triptych is a favorite form of folding screen. It is copied from old altar paintings in forms and consists of a centre and two folding panels; it may contain three photographs but more particularly enshrines one that is placed in the centre panel. Small two leaved screens are used for photographs by placing them as a frieze. These screens are usually made by fulling on some simple sprigged material, and using the same material to cover the photograph frame which serves as the frieze.

A lovely vertical frame for three photographs is made by using ragged edge drawing cards. The three are attached by strips of white silk gummed between the boards so that they may be folded if necessary. The decoration consists of clusters

THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER.

of violets, pansies, buttercups or such simple flowers mingled with water lines of gold.

In this part of the country after the sea has tempted so many thitherwards, during the hot weather, it is not surprising to find that the oyster, mussel and scallop are among the new decorative forms. Oyster shells overlapping one another and among the new designs for doilies. They are worked in white wash silk on linen in short and long stitch, and are outlined with gold. The shell-like markings are rendered in satin stitch. The scallop shell gives shape to doilies and the radiating lines are given in Kensington stitch with shell tinted silks.

CHRISTMAS SOUVENIRS AND NAME CARDS.

BY CARRIE MAY ASHTON.

THE successful hostess always plans something novel and unique for her guests but is it no easy task to devise these surprises in the way of souvenirs and name cards.

Some of the most exquisite ones are fashioned of bolting cloth or silk mull laid over lengths of pale pink, blue, violet and green ribbon of a good width. Appropriate quotations in illuminated letters are inscribed on these cards. "Should auld acquaintance be forgot," "Our true content is all for your delight," "Eat, Drink and be Merry," "Eat and Drink as Friends" and "Happy they who take the middle course," are a few lines of the many quotations that are suitable to any occasion.

Other equally dainty cards are of heavy white or cream paper; sometimes three or four leaves are fastened together with a little bow of ribbon. A spray of holly, mistletoe, bitter-sweet berries, or a little snow scene is done in water colors on the cover is especially suitable for the Christmas tide. Below are given a variety of quotations appropriate for these dainty holiday souvenirs.

"Christmas is coming, and what will it bring?
Many a pleasant and gladdening thing;
Meetings and greetings, and innocent mirth:
All that is brightest and best on the earth."

"Sure Christmas is a happy time
In spite of wintry weather,
For laugh and song, and jest go round
When dear friends meet together;
And hearts are warm, and eyes beam bright
In the ruddy glow of Christmas night."

May piety with wishes placed above
And steady loyalty and faithful love,
Be thy blessings this Christmas tide.

"Again at Christmas did we weave
The holly round the Christmas hearth,
The silent snow possessed the earth;
And calmly fell on Christmas eve."

"As Christmas offerings meet your eyes,
Still closer be sweet friendship's ties."

"True love shall live thro' sorrows wintry storms,
And bloom afresh on this glad Christmas morn."

"Joy and plenty in the cottage,
Peace and feasting in the hall;
And the voices of the children,
Ring out clear above it all;
A merry Christmas."

"May health and joy, and peace be thine
Upon this Christmas day,
And happy faces round thee shine
As plenteous as the flowers in May."

"Hark, the pearly air is trembling,
Liquid music floats along,
Angels in sweet joy assembling,
Thrill the skies with heavenly song.
'Peace on Earth' is their refrain;
O, be it yours this peace to gain."

Christmas comes, let every heart
In Christmas customs bear its part:
The 'old' be 'young' the sad be gay,
And smiles chase every care away."

"Again the festive season's here,
With all that can delight and cheer;
O, may you nothing lack each day,
But find fresh blessings strewn your way."

"O joyous be your Christmas tide.
And bright your New Year, too;
To you may lover ne'er be denied,
May all your friends be true."

Now Christmas comes with hearty cheer.
May kindly thoughts go round,
And bring to you a glad New Year,
With peace and plenty crowned."

"Upon a gayer, happier scene,
Never did holly berries peer.
Or ivy throw its trailing green,
On brighter forms than there are here,
Nor Christmas in his old arm chair
Smile upon lips and brows more fair
Then let us sing amid our cheer,
Old Christmas still comes once a year."

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

ELLEN J. MILLER. "Can you give me some instructions in reference to ebonizing wood? Following suggestions from 'The Home Workshop,' I have made a cabinet, the foundation of which was a dry-goods box. And having succeeded, so entirely to my satisfaction, in constructing this cabinet, were not the expense more than I can afford, I should adopt a hint thrown out by you, to cover the cabinet with plush, inside and outside, and finish it with brass-headed nails. But this seeming out of the question with me, the next best finish I can think of for my cabinet, is to ebonize it; and you will greatly increase my obligation if you will let me know how ebonizing is done."

The best ebonizing preparation that can be used, or that which most nearly resembles the real ebony in fact, is lamp-black secured from the smoke of kerosene. To secure this black, all you have to do is to turn up the wick of a kerosine lamp sufficiently high to produce a dense smoke. By this means, in a few moments, the chimney of the lamp will be coated with a very fine, smooth, oily soot. Let it accumulate until it hangs thickly on the glass, then you will extinguish the blaze, and suffer the glass to cool. The soot can then be scraped on a flannel cloth; the operation repeated a number of times, you will gather enough soot for your purpose. Apply the soot with a flannel cloth, and repeat the operation, rubbing the soot in thoroughly, until your wood is of a fine, smooth black; the most perfect imitation of ebony that can be affected. It must not be varnished. Should you hesitate about undertaking to ebonize your cabinet in this manner, because of blacking your hands more than you would like, you can procure from any store in which artists' materials are sold, an ebonizing preparation, which is applied with a brush. But in the use of any preparation for ebonizing, we are advised that it should be well rubbed in with a piece of flannel, and that the furniture treated should not be varnished. Ebony has a dull lustre, and in all imitations of this beautiful wood, a glistening surface must be avoided.

F. G. L. "I venture to ask a question regarding table-linen. Have you anything new to suggest in reference to centerpieces, sidepieces, scarfs, doilies, or other fanciful table furnishing in linen? I am a young housekeeper, and take special pride in my table, and believing that neat and tasteful appointments conduce to the enjoyment of the viands, I have determined that, as far as my own industry will avail, my table shall be lacking in nothing which might add to the tastefulness of arrangement, or which might please the eyes of my husband or guests. If you can assist me with a few suggestions, I shall be grateful."

There is nothing indeed which adds more to gustatory pleasures than a neat and tasteful service; and now that fancy enters so decidedly into the laying of a table, we do not wonder that we are frequently appealed to by our correspondents in reference to the dainty fancies which have appeared recently in table-linen. The most novel linen service which has lately come under our notice, consists of a circular piece for the center of the table, with four small circular pieces for conserve dishes, and a dozen finger-bowl doilies to match. Plain linen damask, or satteen, was used for the set, and the decoration was a garland border of clover leaves, done in darning with clover-pink silk, outlined with a white cord couched on in buttonhole stitch, with green silk. The darning was carefully and closely done, the leaves so filled in as, at a glance, to give the effect of a pink surface, and the entire effect was pleasing; but as green is now very fashionable in embroidery, and as a liberty was taken with the suggestions of nature, in the conventional use of pink in leaves, our correspondent will be sure of something more